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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/691,979

10/24/2003

Harunori Tashiro

Q78139

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23373

7590

11/08/2006

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/691,979	TASHIRO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thanh-Tam T. Le	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/24/03; 07/26/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election

1. The election filed 10/16/06 is acknowledged. Claims 1-7 are examined.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 6, line 11, "a wire press-contacting portion" should be --the wire press-contacting portion--; and line 16, "the press-contacting blades" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 7, lines 7 and 8, "the inner face" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Genz et al. (6,312,288).

Regarding claims 1 and 6, Genz et al., figures 1 and 3 show a connector (14) comprising:

- a plurality of terminals (54);

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- a connector housing (14) receiving the terminals, each of the terminals including:
- a terminal connecting portion (58) having a tubular shape and receiving a mating terminal (30);
- a wire press-contacting portion (56) including a press-contacting blade (60) for press-contacting a wire, and the press-contacting blade having a blade width larger than a width of the terminal connecting portion; and
- an interconnecting portion (96, figure 3) connecting the terminal connection portion and the wire press-contacting portion,

wherein a press-contacting portion direction in which the wire is press-contacted with the wire press-contacting portion is parallel to a terminal fitting direction of the terminal connecting portion; and

wherein the terminal connecting portion of the terminals are received in the connector housing in parallel so that the press-contacting blades are arranged in a staggered manner.

Regarding claim 4, the press-contacting blade is formed by a flat plate having a groove (64, figure 3) that the wire is press-contacted.

Regarding claim 5, the wire press-contacting portion is spaced a prescribed distance from the terminal connecting portion in a direction perpendicular to the press-contacting direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Genz et al. (6,312,288) in view of JP 2-115257U.

Genz et al. disclose the claimed invention as described above except for a press-contacting face abuts against an inner wall of a connector housing.

JP 2-115257U, figure 1 shows a press-contact terminal (21) having a press-contacting face (27) abuts against an inner wall of a housing (23). It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Genz et al. to have the structure of the terminal and the housing, as taught by JP 2-115257U, in order to have more security between the terminal and the housing.

Regarding claim 3, it is noted that JP 2-115257U shows the press-contact receiving face is formed at a rear side of the press-contacting blade.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claim is allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a support jig for receiving the press-contacting force through the inner wall of the connector housing, as set forth in the claimed combination.

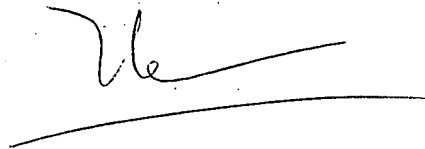
9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

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11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thanh-Tam T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

TL.
11/04/06.